

HABS No. ID-110-G

Hornet Ranger Station, Blacksmith Shop  
(Building No. 1348)  
Payette National Forest  
National Forest Road No. 50002  
Council Vicinity  
Adams County  
Idaho

HABS  
ID  
2-COUN.V,  
1G-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HORNET RANGER STATION, BLACKSMITH SHOP (Bldg. No. 1348)  
HABS No. ID-110-G

Location: Payette National Forest  
15 miles southwest of Council  
0.2 miles north of Washington County line  
National Forest Road No. 50002, at Mill Creek  
Adams County  
Idaho

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Hornet SW, ID, quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates:  
11.529300.4965000

Present Owner: Payette National Forest  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1026 Park Street  
McCall, Idaho 83638

Present Use: Abandoned

Statement of Significance:

The Hornet Ranger Station forms important historical associations with two federal agencies: the U.S. Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Both of these agencies were instrumental in the regional development of the West during the first half of the twentieth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The blacksmith shop was built in 1933.

2. Architect/Builder: The blacksmith shop was built as a modified "Plan R-4 #40 Blacksmith Shop." It was built as part of a cooperative project between personnel of the Weiser National Forest and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

3. Original and subsequent owners: The blacksmith shop has always been the property of the U.S. Forest Service.

4. Alterations and additions: Originally, the structure was painted white with green trim. Today, it is painted avocado with white trim. The original wood shingle roof was replaced by corrugated aluminum in the 1960s. In recent years, the blacksmith equipment has been removed and the building has been used for storage.

B. Historical Context: See overview for complex.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

The Blacksmith Shop is a one-story building, 14 feet (E-W) by 16 feet (N-S). It measures 12.5 feet in height from the ground to the peak of the roof. It was located in the working portion of the site, near the western end of the complex. Placement was determined in consideration of the fire danger associated with the operation of a forge.

1. Architectural character: The one-story wood frame building with "double drop" horizontal siding is a modified "R-4 #40" blacksmith shop. The structure functioned as a working "smithy" being associated with an era when horse patrols were a necessity in the backcountry of the national forests. It is a typical example of regional Forest Service architecture in the 1930s.

2. Condition of the fabric: The overall condition of the historic fabric is good.

## B. Description of the Exterior

1. Foundations: The building is supported on a dressed concrete "footer" foundation. Vertical bolts have been fastened to the sill plate at two-foot intervals for structural reinforcement.

2. Walls: The frame building is constructed of milled dimensional lumber of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. Wire nails are used throughout as fasteners. Walls are set upon "2 x 6" sills. Framed corner posts, trimmed in white, help to bear the load of the roof. Walls utilize "2 x 4" studs; the exterior is faced with one-inch by eight-inch "double drop" overlapping siding. The building is painted avocado green; windows and doors are trimmed and painted white.

3. Doors: The building contains a single entryway positioned under the gable along the facade (south elevation). The door measures four feet by seven feet and is a single sliding door which moves along an overhead roller-bearing hangar, within a weather tight steel track. It is made from vertical pine boards similar to the standard material used for flooring.

4. Windows: The fenestration utilizes four horizontal fixed (non-opening) sash windows with six panes. Two each are centered along the east and west elevations. The structural openings measure approximately six feet by three feet; windows measure 2.8 feet by 2.4 feet and are 1 1/8th inch thick.

5. Roof: The medium gable roof is built with "2 x 4" rafters of Douglas fir; one by six-inch "ribbon braces" are attached to each rafter for added support. Standard "1 x 6" fir ridge board frames the roofline. The fir sheathing and board is covered with corrugated aluminum.

## C. Description of the Interior

1. Floor plan: The blacksmith shop consists of a single unfinished room.

2. Flooring and ceiling: The floor is a dirt and gravel surface. The ceiling is open to the exposed rafters of the roof.

3. Other features: The original work bench and shelving are presently used for storage.